

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-38 and substitute the following claims:

39. (new): A method to determine activity of a protein that transports a substance from a donor to an acceptor which method comprises:

(a) incubating a sample containing said protein and an undetermined amount of acceptor with

(i) a donor particle comprising said substance labeled with a light emitter in a quenched state so that emitted light detectable from said labeled substance increases when the labeled substance is released from the donor particles and transferred to acceptor; and

(ii) a normalizer that reduces the intensity of light detectable from said light emitter in proportion to the concentration of acceptor present in the sample; and

(b) measuring the intensity of the emitted light to determine activity of the protein.

40. (new): The method of claim 39 wherein the normalizer generates color or turbidity that absorbs some of the emitted light proportional to the concentration of acceptor present in the sample.

41. (new): The method of claim 39 wherein the protein is cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) and the donor comprises a particle containing cholesteryl ester having a fluorescent label which is quenched by virtue of inclusion in said particle.

42. (new): The method of claim 41 wherein the normalizer generates color or turbidity from a component of LDL and VLDL.

43. (new): The method of claim 42 wherein said component is cholesteryl ester or triglyceride.

44. (new): A method to measure the activity of CETP in a sample which method comprises

(a) incubating a sample containing CETP and an undetermined amount of LDL and/or VLDL with

(i) a donor particle comprising a cholesteryl ester labeled with a fluorophore in a quenched state so that the emitted light detectable from said fluorophore increases when the labeled cholesteryl ester is transferred to VLDL and/or LDL; and

(b) reagents that generate a color from cholesteryl ester or from triglyceride that is not bound to fluorophore in proportion to the concentration of VLDL and/or LDL in the sample; and

(c) measuring the intensity of the emitted light to determine the activity of the CETP in the sample.

45. (new): The method of claim 44 wherein the color is generated from cholesteryl ester or triglyceride by a method which comprises generating hydrogen peroxide.

46. (new): The method of claim 44 wherein the fluorescent label is 7-nitrobenz-2-oxa-1,3-diazole (NBD).